

Questions from Webinar on *Early On*® Determinations and Public Reporting

Accountability

1. *Who was the determination letter sent to?*

The letter was sent to Intermediate School District Superintendents (ISDs) *Early On*® Coordinators, special education directors, other supervisors.

2. *We were directed to use Part C only children's files for the Fiscal Study and the self assessment that was reported for Indicator 8; and therefore, it is not an accurate representation of all children enrolled. We would have selected different files. Can we go back and get a representative sample?*

No. When designing the request for the Fiscal Study, we did not foresee the need for the data beyond the study. We do intend to improve data collection to more accurately reflect each area.

3. *When the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) wrote the letter to the superintendents, why wasn't it indicated that the state had problems collecting some of the data?*

The state worked quickly to develop the letters after receiving guidance from the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) on making determinations. There was an effort to condense and put as much as possible into the letters. We appreciate the personal relationships that Coordinators have with their Superintendents and Special Education Directors to explain that the data collection process will be improved.

4. *You noted that there were problems in the data collection process; is it necessary to report those indicators for which the State had difficulty in collecting the data?*

The law requires reporting on all indicators.

Compliance Indicator #1

5. *What data was used to make determinations?*

The data used to make determinations was 2005 data that was reported in 2006.

6. *For "consent of parent" in Compliance Indicator #1, is that consent on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)?*

Yes, it is the initiation by a signature of a parent to begin the process.

Compliance Indicator #7

7. *What constitutes "notification?" How was this data collected? What was looked at?*

The data was taken from the Self Assessment for the year 2005.
If the child has an Individualized Education Plan, then make a copy of the signature page that shows the Local Education Agency representative's signature.

8. *When does the IFSP have to be completed?*

The IFSP must be completed within 60 days of referral to Part C.

9. *At some point in the future will you collect data on the reason why the timeline was not met?*

Yes. We are planning for upgrades to the system to make sure that we have data, and for Cohort 3, we are collecting this information in the record reviews being done this summer.

Performance Indicator #2

10. *Previously the requirement in the Self Assessment with regards to natural environment was 100 percent, is it now 86 percent?*

We have always felt that 100 percent was what we want for all children. We have reconsidered, taking into account the need for family preferences and other factors. The 86 percent target came from our State Performance Plan where we were required to report baseline data and rigorous targets. 86 percent was the state target, and therefore, the local service area's target. A service area's data was compared to the state target.

11. *Are we going to concentrate on the location that the service took place?*

The federal regulations focus on the location. Through training and technical assistance, we can concentrate on making the consideration on what is best for the child. The definitions for home-based and community-based settings are contained in a document on the EETRK website.

12. *If a child is receiving services in a community education child care program that is run by the school district (and open to typically developing children), is that considered community-based?*

Yes, as long as the setting is available to the community.

The Process

13. Will we receive our actual score?

We currently do not have the staff time and resources. We will try to integrate the individual scoring sheets into the report next year.

14. Scores are an issue, and depending upon how far away you are from compliance they will drive your improvement plans. What should we do?

In order to write improvement plans, a service area can go into EETRK and view last year's self assessment and compare their data with the state's target.

15. How many local service areas were in each level?

The PowerPoint presentation addresses that.

Improvement Plan and Quarterly Reports and Their Link with Determinations and CIMS

16. We've heard that Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency (CCRESA) hours are being cut back, so what are the expectations of their availability?

We are in negotiation with regard to the expectations that we have with CCRESA to ensure availability to the Needs Assistance category (as well as all of the determinations categories).

17. What will be the turn-around time for improvement plans we submit?

You will receive more timely feedback. Our state has received a determination of Needs Intervention. We will need to focus on General Supervision and Monitoring and helping to correct noncompliance which is going to be more important than the variety of activities in which we have been participating.

Public Reporting

18. Will the public know where the data comes from?

We will include that the data being presented is from December 1, 2005.

19. Will we be notified in advance of the date of the public release of the Public Report?

Yes.

20. What do you mean by "press release" or "letting the media know?" Many of the media outlets for the Upper Peninsula are in Wisconsin, and we need to know if they will be covered?

MDE has a communications office that maintains the contact with a comprehensive collection of media outlets in Michigan. For those who have additional media outlets, once the public reporting release has been disseminated, you can forward the information to additional media outlets.

21. What data will you be using for next year's outcomes?

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires us to use what is used to provide them with the statewide reporting for the Annual Performance Report. For the next reports to OSEP, due February 1, 2008, the data that will be used is as follows:

- EETRK data from December 1, 2006
- Record review for Cohort 3
- We are hoping to use data that is gathered from quarterly reports

22. Is there something that we can say when we get calls about our data?

Service areas should focus on what aspects of their systems are doing well.

General

23. Can we print slides from the presentation?

We will be putting the presentation on MDE's website as well as *Early On* Training and Technical Assistance's website.

24. There were 15 Service Areas that were in the Meets Requirements category, would they be interested in sharing what they are doing?

We will look into that. We need to work peer-to-peer, so others can learn.

25. We are scheduled for CIMS monitoring this year, how do these plans coincide?

Service Areas will be required by determinations to submit improvement plans by September 15. In the spring, you will be submitting SPSR; we ask you take the existing plan and merge the two together. That way, all dates will coincide.

MDE will work closely with EOTTA and assist in any way we can. Because this is the first year for the determination process, this is not the preferred timeline.

26. Which areas were identified by OSEP that the State needs intervention on?

OSEP's report to the State included a table of all 14 indicators with the status and an analysis. The areas in which the State has challenges include:

- Justifications for not serving children in natural environments. (Our data system has not included this element.)
- Timely Services-calculating the incorrect timeline
- Not recording exceptional family circumstances
- 45-day timeline

27. Will we be receiving the outline of what the State needs to improve upon?

Please request a copy through the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services at 608 West Allegan, PO Box 30008, Lansing, Michigan 48909.